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RURAL DISTRICT

of

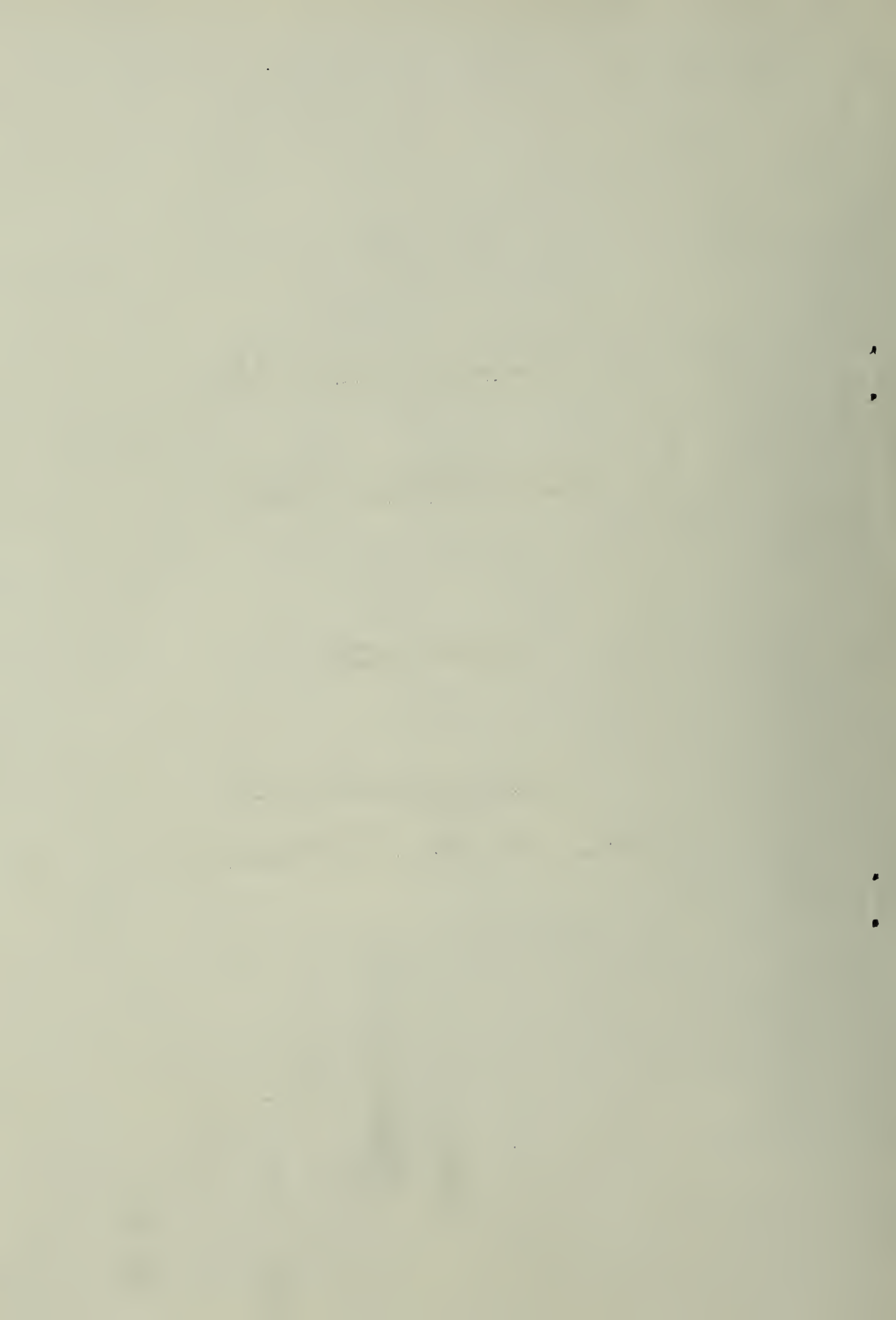
BROADWOODWIDGER

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December 1958.




BROADWOODWIDGER PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

With the Compliments  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health.

Drake Road.  
Tavistock.

Tel.No. 2514



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## BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT.

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit this my twenty-first annual report for the year ended 31st December 1958, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry.

The crude birth rate this year is considerably below that for England and Wales as a whole, whilst the crude death rate has risen to one point above the national figure.

The health of the district has been generally good. In November twenty-six cases of food poisoning were reported at the Ivy House School, Broadwoodwidge, and the cause of the outbreak was thought to be sausage meat served to the children for lunch in the form of sausage rolls. It was not possible, however, to obtain any samples as the remains of the lunch had been disposed of before the arrival of your Medical Officer of Health.

The Vital Statistics for the district are set out below:

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#### General Statistics

Area (in acres) .....	29, 294.
Population - 1931 Census .....	2, 177.
Population - 1951 Census .....	2, 028.
Estimated home Population - mid 1958 ....	2, 030.
Parishes .....	six
Number of inhabited houses .....	566
Rateable value .....	£7, 574.
Product of the Penny Rate .....	£31. 0s. 0d.
Loan Debt .....	£58, 373.

#### Vital Statistics.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>	11	11	22
Legitimate	10	10	
Illegitimate	1	1	
 <u>Deaths</u>	 14	 12	 26.



England &  
Wales.

Live Births .....	22	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population .....	10.8	16.4
Corrected Birth Rate .....	11.3	
Still Births .....	nil	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births .....	-	21.6
Total Live and Still Births .....	22	
Infant Deaths .....	1	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births..		
Total.....	45.4	22.5
Legitimate ....	50.0	
Illegitimate ..	-	
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	-	
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births ..	9.5%	
Maternal Deaths (including abortion).....	nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births...	-	
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population .....	12.8	11.7
Corrected Death Rate .....	15.1.	

Age at Death Table

<u>Age of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Infants under 1 year.	1	-
1 - 5 years	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-
15 - 25 "	1	-
25 - 35 "	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	1
45 - 55 "	-	1
55 - 65 "	3	-
65 - 75 "	3	3
75 years and over	6	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Total:</u>	14	12





The Chief Causes of Death were as follows:

Cancer .....	1
Diabetes .....	1
Vascular disease ...	8
Coronary disease ...	4
Heart disease.....	4
Other circulatory	
disease.....	1
Pneumonia .....	1
Ill-defined causes .	1
Accidental.....	5

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General Provision of Health Services.

The General Provision of Health Services remained as in previous years, and no complaints were received.

During the year Poliomyelitis vaccination was extended to include that section of the population up to and including the age of 25 years.

Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners, 1958.

Measles     One case of measles in a boy aged 4 years.

Infectious diseases notified by School Authorities, 1958.

North Petherwin .....	23	Chicken Pox.
	6	Mumps.
St.Giles in the Heath .....	10	Chicken Pox.
Ivy House School Broadwoodwidge...	26	Food Poisoning.

Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis

No case of either disease occurred in the district during the year.



## Tuberculosis

No deaths were recorded from this cause. One new case of Glandular Tuberculosis was reported during the year.

At the end of the year 12 cases remained on the Register as follows:

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
4	4	-	4

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My thanks are due to Mr. Judd for preparing the Section of the report which he actually administers.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

E. D. Allen-Price.

Medical Officer of Health.



## PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

### COUNCIL HOUSES

#### Hellescott, Petherwin Gate.

Four traditional houses were completed and occupied during the year.

#### Jays Cross, Werrington.

Tenders were received and Ministry approval for acceptance given for two traditional houses and site works. Building will commence early in 1959.

#### Ladycross, Werrington

As the mains of the North Devon Water Board will soon reach Ladycross the Council has decided to build a further pair of traditional houses, making a total of 10 on the site. Plans are in course of preparation and, subject to a satisfactory tender being received, it is hoped to commence building in the early Summer.

The following is the list of Council houses in the various Parishes:-

Broadwoodwidge	10
North Petherwin	10.
Northcott Hamlet	nil
St. Giles-in-the-Heath	6
Virginstowe	2
Werrington	8

The figure of 36 Council houses does not sound impressive unless related more accurately to the needs of the district. There are 236 agricultural holdings in the district, deducting these from the total there are left only about 330 dwellings which are not farmhouses either large or small. When the Jays Cross and two additional houses at Ladycross are completed it will mean that of the non-farm houses the Council will own one in every twelve properties in the district. With the product of the penny rate only £31. 0. Od, and up to three years ago £18. 0. Od or less, the Council's effort at providing new houses is one of which they have every right to feel proud.

The true picture of a Council's housing effort is to take the number of houses built since the War by the Authority per 1,000 of the population. The County of Middlesex is an urbanised area in that it does not contain a single Rural District Council. At the time of writing this report the population of



the County of Middlesex was 2,249,100 and the 18 Boroughs and 8 Urban Councils had between them built 44,422 Council houses since the end of the War giving an average of about 21 Council houses completed per 1,000 of the population, whilst during the same period the average of this Council was 15 per 1,000 of population. Living, as we are, in a district which, because of its lack of population, is in fear of losing its entity, this comparison with the most urbanised County in England should if it serves no other purpose, give some food for thought.

These houses have been built by the Council with two objects in view, firstly to provide good homes for agricultural workers employed in the district and secondly to keep young men and women born in the district from drifting off the land. Unfortunately the policy is only partially successful because in some of the more isolated sites considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining tenants - in fact for the last house let we were unable to get a local tenant and had to offer the house to a lady living in London. This difficulty the Council appreciate and are now only building where there is a reasonably good bus service to Launceston. The fact remains that we have many farms in isolated positions many miles from Launceston and with no bus services. Some of these farms are in need of labour yet it is evident that should the Council build houses in isolated parts of the area that they will have them lying empty on their hands. It is a problem of the future to which one can see no solution, my personal opinion is that in the not far distant future much of the labour to work such farms will be in the form of gang labour based on Launceston and Helsworthy.

For years poor housing and lack of amenities have been blamed for the steady drift from the countryside of the young and the not so young. Lack of piped water and electricity have certainly contributed towards the drift but one feels that poor roads and inadequate transport facilities are also contributory factors. Much more money is needed for spending on the unclassified roads which are in the main means for communication in a district such as this. This country cannot be prosperous with a declining agricultural population and it is over these unclassified roads that the youths and maidens have to travel to find their amusement and in many cases carry on their courting.

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Private enterprise houses completed during the year... 2.







## HOUSING ACT, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

During 1958 the Council has continued its policy of not refusing a grant in any case where the applicant's property could be brought up to the required standard.

Properties for which applications received .....	5
Properties for which a grant was offered .....	4
Properties for which a grant was refused .....	1
Schemes completed during the year .....	6
Total cost of schemes completed during the year.	£1515,0.0d.

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-
  - (a) Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts . . . . . 43
  - (b) Inspections made for the purpose . . . . . 87
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. . . . . nil
3. Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding sub-heading) not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation . . . . . 32
4. Remedy of defects during year:
  - (a) Without the serving of Formal Notices . . . . . 30
  - (b) Formal Notices under the Housing Acts . . . . . nil
  - (c) Formal Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936. . . . . 3
5. Houses found to be overcrowded . . . . . 2
  - Overcrowding abated by allocating Council houses. . . . . 2

## RENT ACT, 1957

It is now 18 months since the coming into force of the Rent Act 1957, and during that time not a single application has been received for a certificate of disrepair.



## PLANS

The following plans were approved by the Council under their Building Byelaws:-

Alterations and additions to existing houses.	... 9
Agricultural Buildings	... 4
New Dwelling houses	... 3
Garage	... 1

## FOOD SUPPLIES

All bread is delivered from Launceston there being no bakeries in the district.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one slaughter-house which is used by the owner for his family business.

## GROCERS

There are seven general stores from which groceries are served, two being reasonably large shops the remainder being one room divided off from the rest of the house and used as a general store. Conditions are reasonably satisfactory.

## ICE-CREAM

There are four retailers of pre-packed ice-cream. In all cases conditions are satisfactory.

## MILK

There are only two retailers and each holds a Supplementary licence for the retail of Pasteurised milk. The bulk of the population obtain their milk supply by fetching it from farms, these producer-retailers and their premises are under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

## FOOD POISONING

Twenty-six cases of food poisoning were reported at Ivy House School, Broadwoodwidge. The cause of this outbreak was thought to be sausage meat served to the children in the form of sausage rolls and re-heated on the premises. It was not possible to obtain a sample of this sausage meat as all that remained after the children's lunch had been disposed of before the arrival of the Medical Officer of Health.



### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, Section 3

The following samples were taken under the above Act during the year by the County Inspector:-

Milk .... 26 samples - All genuine.

### WATER SUPPLIES

As the North Devon Water Board are extending their mains the benefit of a piped water supply is being appreciated by more householders and agriculturalists.

During the year work was commenced on the following extensions:-

1. Box's Shop to Ladycross and Yeolmbridge.
2. Broadwoodwidge to Rexon Cross and Kellacott.

An extension of the main from Ladycross to Langdon, Brazacott and Maxworthy is needed.

Mr. Young, District Engineer to the North Devon Water Board, has submitted the following report on progress in your district during the year.

The following schemes are in progress or have been completed during the year.

- 1) St. Giles to Werrington
- 2) Yeolmbridge and Ladycross

This is the trunk main which will serve a very large part of Broadwoodwidge area and good progress has been made to date. This scheme will be extended to include North Petherwin etc., possibly by 1960.

Other small schemes completed include:

- 1) Broadwoodwidge to Rexon Cross.
- 2) Rexon Cross to Kellacott
- 3) Grinnacombe Moor to Broadwoodwidge to Shop.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

Refuse is collected bi-monthly from all hamlets and houses bordering the principal roads in the district. In the past this has been done by means of an open lorry which method was untidy and unhygienic. During the year the Contractors (who also carries out the service for Launceston R.D.C) purchased a



second-hand covered refuse lorry which has improved the service and has made dumping at the refuse tip easier.

#### FACTORIES

The only factory registered under the Factories Act, 1937, is for motor vehicle repairs. It was not found necessary to serve any notice.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council for their support and for the ready hearing which they always give me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

T. A. JUDD.

Public Health Inspector.

